

HERE ARE THE GIRL PIONEERS OF AMERICA

STEPS JUST TAKEN TO START A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF GIRLS CORRESPONDING TO THE BOY SCOUTS



No sooner had the boy scout movement become popular a year or so ago than a clamor arose from girls all over the country.

"We want to be it too. Why don't they have something like that for girls?" they said.

The outing and tramping trips of the boys, their banding together not only to have a good time but also to learn to do worth while things, the fun of belonging to a big national organization with a special costume, a watchword and a badge, all this appealed to the girls. For months past the organizers of the Boy Scouts of America have been getting letters urging them to give the girls a chance. These letters have come from social workers, from girls' societies, even from individual girls. Letters have come from groups of factory girls, from ministers and teachers having classes of active, restless girls in their charge and from mothers whose boys are scouts.

The chorus finally grew so insistent that a number of the people to whom the appeals had been coming met one day early this spring to talk the matter over and see what could be done. As they talked their enthusiasm grew. A temporary committee on organization was formed, and out of that first meeting grew the Girl Pioneers of America, a tentative organization, which it is hoped may mean to American girlhood what the boy scout movement means to the boys.

Mrs. Ernest Thompson Seton, whose husband is chief scout of the boy scouts and who is herself an experienced camper and woodsman and an ardent exponent of a healthful outdoor life for women, is one of the prime movers in the new organization.

"Mr. Seton and I have been deeply interested for some time in having the girls represented in some way in this splendid new outdoor movement," said Mrs. Seton in telling of the new plan. "For months Mr. Seton has been in receipt of letters from all parts of the United States urging him to do something for the girls, and the time seems ripe now for just such a great organization as we are starting."

"When a group of us who are interested in it got together recently we learned that the girls everywhere were so anxious for it that in a number of places they had already gone ahead and banded themselves together, calling themselves girl scouts, girl guides or girl aides and pat-

terned their activities after those of the boy scouts for the most part. "We learned too that there were one or two really important beginnings of the work. For instance, in Spokane, Wash., the Rev. David Ferry had organized the girl guides with great success, branches having been started in Philadelphia and in New England to some extent. In Des Moines Miss Clara Adella Lisette-Lane, a daughter of Col. William B. Lisette-Lane, had done splendid work locally with the girl scouts organized by her some months ago.

"In forming our organization committee we had in mind a plan by which all these scattered groups should be gathered together into a permanent national organization and the best parts of each adopted. Our plan was simply to organize temporarily for the summer, making a center from which information and suggestions could be sent to interested persons, to make up a bulletin of suggested activities to be tried out during the coming summer at various camps throughout the country, and then to call a large convention in the fall. To this convention delegates and interested persons from all parts of the country would be invited, the experiments of the summer could be reported upon and the best suggestions adopted, and a national organization could then be permanently established.

"In carrying out this plan we appointed a bulletin committee to draw up a tentative plan of organization and a list of suggestions for the summer. This bulletin is now practically completed and it will soon be ready for distribution. It will be freely distributed and may be had upon application to the secretary of the organization committee, Mrs. C. J. Farnsworth, Horace Mann School, New York.

"The activities which it suggests are not intended for any particular camps, since you understand that the camp fire girls have no camps of their own yet. It is hoped that interested workers among girls everywhere will follow out and try out these suggestions this summer and bring to the convention in the fall a report upon the success they have had. They are also invited to adapt the activities to their varying needs, to add to them or omit some of them as seems best, and to bring to us in the autumn any practical suggestions for improvements which they may have to offer.

"The bulletin is primarily intended for those who direct girls in their recreation rather than for the girls themselves, although of course it can be used directly by the girls as well."

Mrs. Charlotte J. Farnsworth, preceptress of Horace Mann School and an authority upon the development, activities and recreation of girls, is the secretary of the new organization, and she has much to say of its purpose and its plans.

"We felt from the first that although this organization was to be a movement affiliated with the boy scouts it should be distinctive in its character and radically different in its point of view, just as girls are fundamentally different from boys in their instincts, interests and ambitions," she said. "The founders of the boy scouts recognize that hero worship is one of a boy's strongest incentives."

"They know that one of the ways to make a boy manly and courageous is by encouraging him to imitate the lives led by the pioneer heroes he admires. They know too that military regulation and organization makes a peculiar appeal to a boy. The activities of pioneering, scouting and the response to military phraseology and regulation are essentially masculine."

"In organizing the girls, on the contrary, we believed very strongly that the activities chosen and the point of view to be adopted should be essentially feminine. In other words, just as the boy scout movement aims to make boys more manly, so the Girl Pioneers organization aims to make girls more womanly. This does not mean that the girl is not to enjoy all the splendid outdoor sports, swimming and boating, athletics, fire building, camp cooking, the knowledge of trees, flowers and birds, but it does mean that in addition she should be encouraged in her love of beauty, in her appreciation of form rather than speed or endurance in what she undertakes to do and in her ideals of service and helpfulness.

"The name camp fire girls, which was

first proposed, was suggested to us by the fact that throughout all the ages the fire has been the center of the home and woman has always been its keeper. In primitive times the campfire was the home itself and in modern times it became a hearth fire, but always woman has been its guardian.

"Around the fire have grown up the domestic industries, the household arts, the bearing and rearing of children, the nursing of the sick, the protection of family loyalty, the spirit of unselfish service, all have centered about the fire. Because it is instinctive with women to make and guard the fire we feel that to make this the central idea in this new movement for girls will be to develop what is fundamentally womanly and beautiful."

"In preparing our bulletin therefore we have followed the boy scout manual only in so far as it suggested activities which are appropriate for boys and girls alike. For example, we have gladly adopted their list of sports, cross-country tramping, ball games of different kinds, swimming, riding and so on, but we have added a number of feminine interests, such as folk dancing, dramatics, pageantry and so forth."

"We have omitted some of the more strenuous masculine activities and substituted such feminine handicrafts as weaving, sewing, basketry and decorative art. The girls will be taught the practical matters of cooking, making camp beds of branches, blazing trails, signaling, knot tying, first aid to the injured and general resourcefulness; but we want them also to be taught courtesy and grace of manner, the value of appropriate dressing, the care of babies, the beautifying of their surroundings, the charm of kindness and helpfulness."

"Mrs. Mary Schenck Woolman, the chairman of our executive committee, who has been for years at the head of the Manhattan Trade School for Girls and who is now the director of household arts at Teachers College, has outlined the domestic activities to be included in the

bulletin and has made many suggestions as to the practical value of the movement in affecting the lives of girls.

"We are especially anxious that this movement shall extend to all classes of girls. We want it to embrace not only the fortunate favored girl who can go away for a long summer at camp but the little factory girl who can have an outing of only one day once in a while and the city bound girl who can escape only for a week-end or two."

"Ever since mention was first made of it in the papers we have had inquiries asking how to begin. When Mr. Seton was in Baltimore recently he found a bevy of girls wearing broad ribbons across their breasts with 'Camp Fire Girls of America' printed on them, the girls saying that they had organized and were simply waiting for instructions."

"One lonely little girl down in Tennessee wrote to know what the uniform would be, and the manager of a large business house in Philadelphia wrote to say that a group of his employees who go each summer to a summer camp provided by the concern wanted to form a camp. One letter came from a woman who said that she was one of a group of elderly women, mostly grandmothers, who went out to the woods once a month, built their fire and cooked their supper because they loved to do so; they wanted to be camp fire girls."

"The name Girl Pioneers of America was adopted for the organization last week. A glance over the bulletin which has been prepared gives promise of many good times for the girls this summer. Camps for girls have become a prominent part of American summer life of late years, and there is no doubt that many a group will wish to adopt the programme suggested and form a camp of the camp fire girls. Already a bevy of girls who spend their summers at Camp Hancock, in Theford, have sent in an application to be known as the first camp of the new organization."

"The aim of the movement," says the bulletin, "is to develop good citizenship by making all girls healthier and happier, by cultivating in them the virtues of simple living, and by instilling in them an enthusiasm for efficient work and joyous recreation."

Following the athletic activities and outdoor sports in which the winter sports of skating, skiing and tobogganing are included, for it is hoped that the girls will often go into winter camp for a short time, there are instructions concerning camp building, arrangement and sanitation; cooking, weather wisdom, hill climbing, photography, gardening; the handling of boats, swimming, diving, what to do in case of accidents, and so on. Nature craft and handicrafts follow, and the suggestions conclude with ideas for dramatic presentation, historical pageants to be given by the girls, the designing of costumes, story telling around the campfire, games and folk dancing.

Then there is the campfire ceremony. This ceremonial is held at stated intervals and is intended to be very impressive. It begins with the gathering of the campers around the fire, which has previously been laid by the campfire guardian, the wood having been brought by the wood gatherers. With appropriate solemnity the fire is then lighted, the torch bearers approach and light their torches and then retire to the circle of campers seated around the fire. After the singing of the campfire song the pledge is repeated aloud.

"I promise to do my duty to the best of my ability."

"I promise to help others as much as I can."

"I promise to obey the campfire laws."

The dance leader then starts the campfire dance, a slow, rhythmic dance which circles about the fire and in which all take part. Any business is then transacted, minutes are read and the roll called, each girl having a camp name. Then follows the camp story, a record of the events of the camp since the previous campfire ceremony. This record may be written in blank verse to make it more effective.

Stunts may then be performed by the girls if some fun is desired. Finally a good night song is sung and the campers, circling again around the fire, slowly vanish to their tents, while two guardians remain behind to quench the fire and leave the hearth in order. While this ceremony occurs at more or less frequent inter-

vals, it is suggested that there be held once a year a campfire day, with appropriate exercises and entertainments lasting throughout the day.

As yet no watchword has been chosen for the organization, although several have been suggested. The emblem tentatively chosen is a very attractive one and appropriate, consisting of three crossed logs with flames rising from the center and below the initials "G. P. A." If worked out in silver for the logs and red enamel for the flames it should be very effective.

The costume suggested consists of full pleated bloomers with a skirt to match. The skirt should be at least six inches from the ground. A middie blouse to be worn outside the skirt, with collar and cuffs matching the color of the skirt, completes the costume. Each camper is to choose its own color.

The campfire laws relate to loyalty, honor, helpfulness, thrift, good personal habits and the determination to look for the beautiful in all things. Advancement in rank in the camp is dependent upon certain tests. There are athletic, domestic and service tests, a nature test, a resourcefulness test, an artistic test and so on. These tests become more exacting for each rank.

In order to become a Girl Pioneer a girl must be 12 years old, must have at least 50 cents in her savings bank and must be able to pass certain simple tests. Insignia of rank consist of various colored bands sewed to the sleeve. Honors for special achievements will be shown by an embroidered device on the sleeve.

While the organization committee of the Girl Pioneers of America is composed entirely of women and women will be the directors of the permanent organization, the committee has had the advice and counsel of a number of experienced men who have worked with girls and boys. James E. West, executive secretary of the Boy Scouts, and Leo F. Hanner, one of the organizers, have given the committee the benefit of their knowledge. Ernest Thompson Seton has met with the committee and helped them to outline their activities, and Dr. Luther H. Gulick of the Russell Sage Foundation, who organized the Public Schools Athletic League, has made suggestions concerning camp ceremonial and the spirit which should pervade the organization.

A CROWD DAILY TO WATCH THE GRACE

CHURCH KINDERGARTEN'S FREE SHOW

The stage setting is soft, shadowy gray walls punctured with Gothic windows framed in ivy. At the right the gray walls, taller than elsewhere, are topped with pointed spires made of stone patterned like openwork embroidery.

Exits and entrances are tall, narrow carved oak doors framed in stone. The floor tapestry is velvety green the year around, freshest in tint as the days lengthen in spring. Nowhere in New York is an outdoor floor covering looked after more carefully.

Dividing the audience from the stage is a three-foot high ornamental iron fence. No seats are provided. The part of the performance which holds the audience fast—perhaps fifteen minutes. While it is going on from 100 to 200 persons, mostly men, remain immovable, leaning over one another's shoulders to get a better view. Occasionally a boy more venturesome than the rest slips under the iron fence, a little to one side, though so near to obstruct any one's view, and stands as motionless as the rest. A reason probably for the small proportion of women in the audience is that the show begins about 9 o'clock, at the height of the advent of the business shopping continent.

By day the personnel of the audience differs, but the same said crowd is on hand unless it rains when there is no performance, and perhaps the most remarkable thing about it is the suddenness with which the audience appears. Neither the management nor any outsider has ever been asked to explain this.

The performance is never advertised,

there are no barkers, no beating of drums, no music. Most of each day's audience happens on the show for the first time. Nevertheless an audience is invariably on the spot two minutes or less after one of the Gothic doors in a sheltered angle opens and a pleasant faced young woman wearing a fresh print dress, a voluminous apron and a perky little white cap steps briskly out. On a crisp morning not long ago a cloth jacket covered up the pretty print waist and the white apron bristled. In her hands she had a couple of dolls' chairs, or what looked like dolls' chairs, which, advancing a yard or so, she placed on the floor.

Like any well trained actress the young woman appeared to be unconscious that already as she turned to re-enter the Gothic door there was a fringe of spectators at the fence and that when she reappeared with two more dolls' chairs the fringe had grown to a double line. A second young woman, also wearing a perky little white cap, followed the first, and in her wake came a procession of doll-like figures dressed variously in pink, white, blue gowns, and each with a little white cap tied under a chubby chin. Each wore a pair—such a tiny pair—of leather shoes and white stockings, and each waddled a bit as she or he advanced to the center of the stage. Usually there are twenty of these little people in line, occasionally not more than a dozen.

On this particular morning they tottered through the Gothic door two by two, and by the time the third pair came in sight the spectators were four deep, from twenty to forty to a line. One

child stepped on the hem of her gown, lurched forward, recovered her balance and chuckled, and a broad smile spread through the audience.

No one moved, no one spoke. Every eye was fixed on the procession. An undersized messenger boy and a tall, stout man standing side by side were equally engrossed.

As the last couple came through the door and the procession broke up into groups of three and four, waddling over the velvet enclosure, the outside line of spectators began to thin out and those nearer the iron fence turned and quickly as it gathered the audience melted up and down Broadway. Two women on the opposite side of the street who hurried over to join the outskirts of the audience at the moment the last of the procession was emerging looked at each other and smiled.

"Just fancy Grace Church kindergarten babies out for an airing drawing such a crowd," remarked one.

"Yes, and yet there are people who insist that men don't like babies," the other rejoined.

Fish in Kansas Irrigating Canals.
Lubin correspondent, Topeka Capital. In addition to the heavy rains the Arkansas River is furnishing the local irrigators with a big supply of water, and an immense lot of rainbow fish are pouring into Lake McKinney.

Fully a thousand pounds of fine fat carp, weighing from three to five pounds, were secured today. The fishermen simply take a netfork and throw them out of the canal as they drift into the lake.

LONDON DIAMOND DISPLAY.

A Season of Colored Frocks, Bigger Tiaras and Much Jewelry.

LONDON, June 1.—There is no doubt that the diamond is the favorite jewel of the coronation year. This is not due to the fact that it is Queen Mary's favorite gem, but to the circumstance that the dresses of the season are in magnificent and varied hues and with them the pure white of the diamond is more effective than rubies, emeralds or other colored stones.

Tiaras, necklaces, corsage ornaments, bracelets and shoulder straps worn at the recent courts and the court ball were composed of diamonds alone. Tiaras are broader this year than formerly and are of more important aspect, though not so becoming as the less heavy style of the immediate past.

The pearl seems to have been deposited temporarily, and even the ropes of pearls with tasselled ends, which were much worn last year, are not seen to any great extent this season. Diamonds are used in the same way, with a rather heavier and less effective result.

Queen Mary, though she wore very little jewelry when Princess of Wales, has appeared at all the court functions blazing with diamonds, the most remarkable of course being the Gullian, which she wears sometimes on her corsage, sometimes in her hair. It is evident that far from being opposed to the display of jewelry she is going to lead in the wearing of precious stones even in the daytime, a fashion which it is always declared, Americans brought to England but which has been taken up by Englishwomen who used to pride themselves on never wearing jewels except in the evening, and then at entertainments.

A DESK SET MADE UP OF ODD PIECES OF OLD PEW-

TER GATHERED ONE BY ONE BY A YOUNG WOMAN

An attractive desk set has been collected by a young woman who desired something unusual for her Hepplewhite desk. It took more time than money to gather together the odd bits of pewter which form the set, but the effect of the dull gray metal against the rich reddish brown of the mahogany has brought joy to the collector and has been a compensation for the hours spent in little out of the way shops and in auction rooms.

"But why a pewter set?" asked a friend of the collector.

"Because brass and copper sets can be found everywhere and in the cheapest degree," was her reply. "Besides, brass and copper are too warm looking for a summer luncheon. There is a heat in the gleam of burnished copper and a glare in polished brass which irritate persons of a certain temperament so that they cannot write. Now my old pewter set looks cool and comfortable and invites me to pour forth my soul."

The first piece of the collection was found in an upshot shop where all sorts of odds and ends from foreign countries are sold. It was a long thin pewter dashstand which was originally intended to support a carving knife, but which served equally well for two or three penholders.

There was so little carving done at home now that as knife rests the pewter does not have had little success, but as pen rests they are perfect," explained the young woman. "The Hollanders, who make these quaint animals of pewter, are sending over cats for the same purpose, but

they are not so attractive as the dachshunds."

The dog's ears drop picturesquely and its short tail stands up perky. The center of the body, which is even longer in proportion to the rest of it than in real life, is slender and will hold three or four pens or pencils.

Another piece discovered by the young woman in quest of pewter was an old Dutch candlestick. Its base was square and from the centre rose a round column, which became fat at the centre and gradually sloped in again as it reached the top, where there was an extra socket for the old fashioned small tallow dip. These candlesticks were originally sold in pairs, but it is possible to pick up a single one at less than half the price of two.

As a tray for sealing wax or extra penholders part of a snuffer set was found to suit admirably, and the old, lustrous gray of the pewter matched the tone of the other pieces already procured. There is a difference in pewter shadings, as every collector knows, which is due to the age and the treatment of the metal, and a lover of the old style metal rarely has a piece polished. It may be cleaned, but polished never. The snuffers belonging to this tray had been lost, so the odd piece was bought at a bargain.

An Italian measuring cup marked "demilitre" which had had hard usage supplied the receptacle for pencils. It cost 3s. These measuring cups have odd square handles and are very small in circumference, but they are tall enough to serve as a part of a desk set. Most of them have very good pen marks on the under side.

An old pewter box, one that had evidently been used as a vanity case, for it had a bit of looking glass rudely fastened

inside of the cover, made an excellent receptacle for stamps and pen nibs, rubber bands and other odds and ends. The outside of the box was decorated in a design chosen by hand and its uneven lines rather added to than detracted from its beauty.

The blotting pad had pewter corners which were made to order, for nothing anyone that the young woman could find in her searchings would answer for this purpose. An old pewter plate furnished the material for the corners, and a Russian, who owns a corner and pewter shop on the lower East Side and who had learned to mend pewter and work it over in his native country, undertook to fashion the four blotter corners from the plate.

The metal was cut in four sections and the edges trimmed and reshaped and beaten until it was thinner than in its original state. Moulding these pieces over made them brighter than the other pieces of the set, but the collector hopes that they will soon take on that rich dark gray lustrous tone which is characteristic of the old and the really good pewter.

The Might of One Man.
From the Lady's Pictorial.
The dwellers in Kensington's most charming and Old World square can now sleep at night without fear that the too enterprising "flat" builders will encroach on the green turf and grove of trees of Edwards Square and turn it into a wilderness of bricks and mortar. For—and this is where the Edwards Square story—there still exists an old charter, which provides that so long as there is a male resident in the square the property must be left intact. This is a great joy to the dwellers thereon, many of whom have promptly proceeded to become absolute owners of their houses.